

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/904,045

Examiner

Mary (Molly) E. Ceperley

Applicant(s)

BUTCHER ET AL.

Art Unit

1641

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed July 02, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5,7,9,10,12,14-20,22,24,26 and 27.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Mary E. Ceperley
MARY E. CEPERLEY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

AK 1641

Art Unit: 1641

1) The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The claims are now limited to the use of "a membrane containing the I_{Kr} channel, derived from a cell line transfected with the human ERG gene". As stated by applicants in the fifth paragraph of the Remarks filed July 02, 2004, the Chadwick et al, Fiset et al, Geonzon et al, and Duff et al references do not describe or suggest a binding assay using membranes from cells expressing human ERG as the source of the ion channel. See also: page one of the instant specification, lines 18-20: "the current binding assay has also been developed using membranes from cells expressing hERG rather than ERG in intact animal cells, as the source of the ion channel" (emphasis added); Example 3 B. Membranes (specification, page 21). Spector et al { *Circulation Research*; March 1996; 78(3), pp. 499-503} further establish that differences in the I_{Kr} blocking of Class III antiarrhythmic drugs in *in vitro* testing may be due to variables such as differences in channel characteristics (HERG versus guinea pig and mouse I_{Kr}), tissue types (oocytes versus myocytes) or the specific drugs tested. Given the state of the art as described above, the prior art is considered neither to describe nor fairly suggest the claimed test for the characterization of a compound as an I_{Kr} channel blocker which comprises the use of the combination of a particular ^{35}S labeled compound of formula I and a membrane containing the I_{Kr} channel derived from a cell line transfected with the human ERG gene.

2) Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

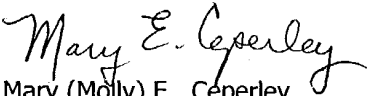
3) Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary (Molly) E. Ceperley whose telephone number is (571) 272-0813. The examiner can normally be reached from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Art Unit: 1641

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Long V. Le, can be reached on (571) 272-0823. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

September 07, 2004


Mary (Molly) E. Ceperley
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1641